

HOME PAGE	MY TIMES	TODAY'S PAPER	VIDEO	MOST POPULAR	TIMES TOPICS	My Account   Welcome, spgardner2000   Log Out   Help													
<b>The New York Times</b>						<b>Washington</b>										U.S. <input checked="" type="radio"/> All NYT <input type="radio"/> <input type="text" value="Search"/>		Ameriprise Financial	
WORLD	U.S.	N.Y. / REGION	BUSINESS	TECHNOLOGY	SCIENCE	HEALTH	SPORTS	OPINION	ARTS	STYLE	TRAVEL	JOBS	REAL ESTATE	AUTOS					
POLITICS		<b>WASHINGTON</b>		EDUCATION															



Get the facts 

The Personal Advisors of  
**Ameriprise Financial**

Ameriprise Financial Services Inc., Member FINRA.  
© 2008 Ameriprise Financial, Inc. All rights reserved.

## Farm Bill, in Part and in Full, Wins Passage

By DAVID STOUT  
Published: May 23, 2008

**WASHINGTON** — In following the legislative trail of the \$307 billion [farm bill](#), it is good to remember that the American system of checks and balances is not really designed for speed.

With most House Democrats and quite a few Republicans supporting it, the bill was approved on Thursday by 306 to 110. The Senate quickly followed suit, 82 to 13. The votes in both chambers were far more than enough to defeat the veto that President Bush cast on Wednesday.

But wait. Hadn't the House already voted, by 316 to 108 later Wednesday, to override the veto? Well, yes. Sort of.

Lawmakers discovered on Wednesday evening that a 34-page section of the 673-page bill was missing from the package that was sent last week to President Bush, who executed his veto after calling the measure bloated and wasteful. The version that the House voted for in its override on Wednesday was also missing that section, which pertains to trade programs and foreign [food aid](#).

Thursday's vote in the House was on all 673 pages, which also embrace subsidies for farmers, food stamps, land conservation and various other items too attractive for most lawmakers to shun.

The glitch "shows that they can even screw up spending the taxpayers' money unwisely," the president's spokeswoman, [Dana Perino](#), said on Thursday.

Those Republicans who stood with the president in opposing the bill clearly enjoyed the awkwardness of the moment and the contortions of the bill's supporters in trying to set things right. Representative [John A. Boehner](#) of Ohio, the House minority leader, expressed indignation, saying Democratic leaders had pushed the bill through on Wednesday night even after learning that it was flawed.


Mr. Boehner happily offered a reminder that in 2006, Representative [Nancy Pelosi](#) of California, then the minority leader, demanded an ethics investigation after the Republican leadership allowed the House to vote on a measure that included incorrect numbers mistakenly inserted.

In the Senate, where the vote Thursday was on an override of the veto of the original, flawed bill, Senator [Harry Reid](#) of Nevada, the Democratic majority leader, said he saw no need to worry about the missing section. If necessary, he said, the Senate will approve it separately when Congress returns in June from a week's vacation.

Mr. Reid said he was sure he was on solid constitutional ground, and people who are experts in Congressional procedure agreed with him. One expert, speaking anonymously, said the Senate could vote just on the missing section, or it could vote for the version approved on Thursday by the House.

[More Articles in Washington »](#)

### Politics E-Mail

 Keep up with the 2008 presidential election with the daily Politics e-mail newsletter. See [Sample](#) [sandra.gardner@ky.gov](mailto:sandra.gardner@ky.gov)   
[Change E-mail Address](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

**Visit our Economic Stimulus Center today!**

**Great coupon offers every week!**

[Learn more](#)

### MOST POPULAR



E-MAILED

1. [As Obama Heads to Florida, Many of Its Jews Have Doubts](#)
2. [Older Brain Really May Be a Wiser Brain](#)
3. [Faster, Higher, Stronger: From a World-Class Rower, Tips to Sharpen Technique](#)
4. [Op-Ed Contributors: Kennedy Talked, Khrushchev Triumphed](#)
5. [Cover Story: Exposed](#)
6. [Op-Ed Contributor: Puerto Rico's Moment in the Sun](#)
7. [Well: Finding the Best Way to Cook All Those Vegetables](#)
8. [At One University, Tobacco Money Is a Secret](#)
9. [Thomas L. Friedman: Imbalances of Power](#)
10. [Maureen Dowd: The Last Debate](#)

[Go to Complete List »](#)

**The New York Times**

**REAL ESTATE**  
[nytimes.com/realestate](http://nytimes.com/realestate)



Then, if Mr. Bush wants to, he can use his veto power all over again, and Congress will have to vote again to override him. Or he could simply let the bill become law, now that it is obvious that it is too popular for him to kill.

Robert B. Dove, a former Senate parliamentarian, said he agreed with Mr. Reid's assessment that there was no constitutional issue. In any case, he told The Associated Press, "the courts don't really want to get into the workings of Congress and try to figure out what Congress really meant to do."

[More Articles in Washington »](#)

**Need to know more? 50% off home delivery of The Times.**

Ads by Google

what's this?

**"Teeth Whiteners Exposed"**

7 Teeth Whitening Products Tested, Rated, and Reviewed. A Must Read!  
[www.Best-Teeth-Whitening.com](http://www.Best-Teeth-Whitening.com)

**Farm Bill 2007**

A strong farm policy keeps America fed.  
[www.farmpolicyfacts.org](http://www.farmpolicyfacts.org)

**How Car Run with Water ?**

Convert Your Car To Run On Water. Save Fuel And Double Your Mileage!  
[www.RunYoursCarWithWater.com](http://www.RunYoursCarWithWater.com)

**What you get for ...\$900,000**

Also in Real Estate:

[Homes for \\$900,000 or less in Manhattan](#)  
[Homes for \\$900,000 or less in Westchester](#)  
[Homes for \\$900,000 or less in Essex County, NJ](#)

ADVERTISEMENTS

All the news that's fit to personalize.

Watch A.O. Scott's video reviews of movies.

**Need to know more?**

Get 50% off home delivery of The Times.

In a world of second opinions, get the facts first.



**The New York Times STORE**

NYT TOUGH  
CROSSWORD  
PUZZLE  
OMNIBUS VOL  
1

NYT TOUGH CROSSWORD PUZZLE  
OMNIBUS VOL 1  
**Buy Now**

**Tips**

To find reference information about the words used in this article, double-click on any word, phrase or name. A new window will open with a dictionary definition or encyclopedia entry.

**Past Coverage**

[NEWS ANALYSIS; Reaching Well Beyond the Farm](#) (May 20, 2008)

**Related Searches**

[Law and Legislation](#)

[Add Alert](#)

[Farm Bill \(US\)](#)

[Add Alert](#)

[Vetoes \(US\)](#)

[Add Alert](#)

[Washington \(DC\)](#)

[Add Alert](#)

**INSIDE NYTIMES.COM**



ART & DESIGN »



**Silent Survivors of  
Afghanistan's Tumult**

ESCAPES »



**Artisan Life in New York  
State, on Weekends**

OPINION »

**The Ear of  
the Beholder**

Rosanne Cash reflects on the relative merits of "truth" and "facts" and offers a new song with Kris Kristofferson and Elvis Costello.

BUSINESS »



**F.A.A. Tests Ways to Detect  
Runway Debris**

MUSIC »



**Summer Will Be Full of  
New Album Releases**

OPINION »



**Video Op-Ed: A Soldier  
Remembers**

[Home](#) | [World](#) | [U.S.](#) | [N.Y. / Region](#) | [Business](#) | [Technology](#) | [Science](#) | [Health](#) | [Sports](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Arts](#) | [Style](#) | [Travel](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Automobiles](#) | [Back to Top](#)

[Copyright 2008 The New York Times Company](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Search](#) | [Corrections](#) | [RSS](#) | [First Look](#) | [Help](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Work for Us](#) | [Site Map](#)